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10/735,346	12/12/2003	James Harold Gray	BS02286	3779
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/735,346

Applicant(s)

GRAY ET AL.

Examiner

FRED PENG

Art Unit

2426

Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 October 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-18 and 20-32 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-18 and 20-32 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SI/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed 10/10/08 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues on page of Remarks dated on 10/10/2008 that Matz does not teach or suggest "receiving programming from a distribution network" and "establishing communication from the viewer appliance to a remotely located component over a connection to an alternative network."

The examiner respectfully disagrees with applicant's arguments. Matz teaches a web server at the head-end (Col 14 lines 19-22) and then teaches tracking a user's access to the websites (Col 6 lines 31-35) and further discloses accessing commercial sites and maintaining user's purchase records (Col 7 lines 39-44; Col 8 lines 14-17; Col 12 lines 48-52). The teaching from the above would inherently suggest the teaching of establishing communication from the viewer's set-top box to the head-end's web server to connect to another website as alternative network for access like shopping or surfing.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1, 3-18 and 20-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Matz (US 7,212,979).

Regarding claims 1, 3, 18 and 25, Matz teaches a system for capturing user commands from a viewer that are related to viewing content (Fig. 1), comprising:

a reception mechanism located at a premises of a viewer that receives programming from a distribution network that receives for user commands (Fig. 1--124; col. 6, lines 23-27); a transfer mechanism located at the premises of the viewer (Fig. 1--120, 124; col. 6, line 28--transmitted via a processor), the transfer mechanism establishing communication from the viewer appliance to a remotely located component over a connection to an alternative network (Col 6 lines 31-35; Col 7 lines 39-44; Col 8 lines 14-17; Col 12 lines 48-52; Col 14 lines 19-22; tracking a user's web page access such as purchase or surfing is establishing communication from the viewer's set-top box to the head-end's web server to connect to another website for access like shopping or surfing), the transfer mechanism concurrently forwarding the user commands relative to the reception mechanism receiving the user commands (col. 6, lines 26-35); and

a control mechanism that executes the user commands received by the reception mechanism to control an aspect of the content being provided to the viewer (col. 6, lines 26-44--"channel up" and "channel down" or web access).

Regarding claim 4, Matz teaches wherein concurrently forwarding the user command comprises concurrently forwarding the user command to a storage device (Fig. 1--128 and 132; col. 6, lines 61-62--subscriber content-choice database; col. 7, lines 45-51--subscriber information database).

Regarding claim 5, Matz teaches matching the user command to a present context and concurrently forwarding the matching to the storage device (col. 6, lines 45- 62; col. 8, line 52-co1.9, line 14).

Regarding claim 6, Matz teaches determining a result of the user command relative to a present context and concurrently forwarding the result to the storage device (col. 6, lines 45-62; col. 8, line 52-co1.9, line 14—determine category).

Regarding claims 7 and 16, Matz teaches wherein receiving the user command at the viewer appliance comprises receiving the user command at a set-top box (Fig. 1—Set-top box 124), and wherein forwarding the user command comprises forwarding the user command from the viewer appliance to a video control system (Fig. 1—Cable Operator Head-end 102).

Regarding claim 8, Matz teaches generating targeted advertising based upon the stored information related to the user command (col. 12, line 63-co1.13, line 11- targeted advertisement).

Regarding claims 9 and 11, Matz teaches a method of capturing user commands from a viewer that are related to viewing content, comprising: receiving a user command at a viewer appliance at a premises of the viewer (Fig. 1—124; col. 6, lines 23-27);

relative to receiving the user command, concurrently forwarding the user command from the viewer appliance to a component located remotely from the premises of the viewer (col. 6, lines 26-30; Fig. 1—120, 124; col. 6, line 28—transmitted via a processor); executing the user command to alter an aspect of the content being viewed by the viewer (col. 6, lines 40-44—"channel up" and "channel down"); and sending an indication that the user command has been executed (col. 6, lines 31-44—clickstream data sent to the head-end).

The amended claimed features has been analyzed and described as in Claim 1.

Regarding claim 10, Matz teaches wherein executing the user command comprises switching from one video stream to another video stream being provided to the premises of the viewer (col. 6, lines 40-44—"channel up" and "channel down").

Regarding claim 12, Matz teaches matching the user command to a present context and including the matching in the user command that is forwarded (col. 6, lines 40-44--date-time stamp).

Regarding claim 13, Matz teaches wherein matching the user command to a present context comprises matching the user command to a current time when the user command is received (col. 6, lines 40-44--date-time stamp).

Regarding claim 14, Matz teaches determining the result of the user command relative to a present context and including the result in the user command that is forwarded (col. 6, lines 26-44--date-time stamp).

Regarding claim 15, Matz teaches wherein determining the result of the user command comprises determining a change to a new video stream relative to the present context (col. 6, lines 26-44--"channel up" and "channel down" actions stored with a date-time stamp).

Regarding claim 17, Matz teaches choosing content based upon the user command (col. 6, lines 40-44--"channel up" and "channel down" actions read on choosing content).

Regarding claim 20, Matz teaches wherein the reception mechanism and the transfer mechanism are included in a set top box (Fig. 1--124; col. 6, lines 26-30).

Regarding claim 21, Matz teaches wherein the control mechanism is included in the set top box (Fig. 1--Set-top box 124; col. 6, lines 26-30).

Regarding claim 22, Matz teaches wherein the transfer mechanism concurrently forwards the user commands to a video control system located remotely from the premises of the viewer (Fig. 1--Cable Operator Head-end 102; col. 6, lines 26-30).

Regarding claim 23, Matz teaches a method of capturing a user command from a viewer that is related to viewing content, comprising: capturing the user command at the premises of the viewer (col. 6, lines 26-27); and continuing to store information related to the user command at the premises of the viewer after the user command has been executed (col. 7, lines 22-25).

The amended claimed features has been analyzed and described as in Claims 1, 18 and 25.

Regarding claim 24, Matz teaches executing the user command at the premises of the viewer (col. 6, lines 40-44--"channel up" and "channel down").

Regarding claim 26, Matz teaches executing the user command at the viewer appliance to alter an aspect of the content (Col 4 lines 49-51; purchase after viewing the program).

Regarding claim 27, Matz teaches concurrently forwarding the user command comprises concurrently forwarding the user command to a remote storage device (FIG.1, 122, 112; Col 5 lines 44-52).

Regarding claim 28, Matz teaches matching the user command to a present context (Col 4 lines 49-55; relates a purchase to an advertisement).

Regarding claim 29, Matz teaches determining a result of the user command relative to the present context (Col 4 lines 41-55).

Regarding claim 30, Matz teaches generating targeted advertising based upon information related to the user command (Col 4 lines 41-55).

Regarding claim 31, Matz teaches the user command is concurrently forwarded as the user command is received, thus providing the remotely located component access to the user command (Col 5 lines 44-50; subscriber-action database providing the remotely located component access to the user command).

Regarding claim 32, Matz teaches concurrently forwarding the user command as a control message (Col 7 lines 1-8; program selection is a control message).

Conclusion

4. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to FRED PENG whose telephone number is (571)270-1147. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 09:00-18:30.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vivek Srivastava can be reached on (571) 272-7304. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Fred Peng
Patent Examiner

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